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C/O

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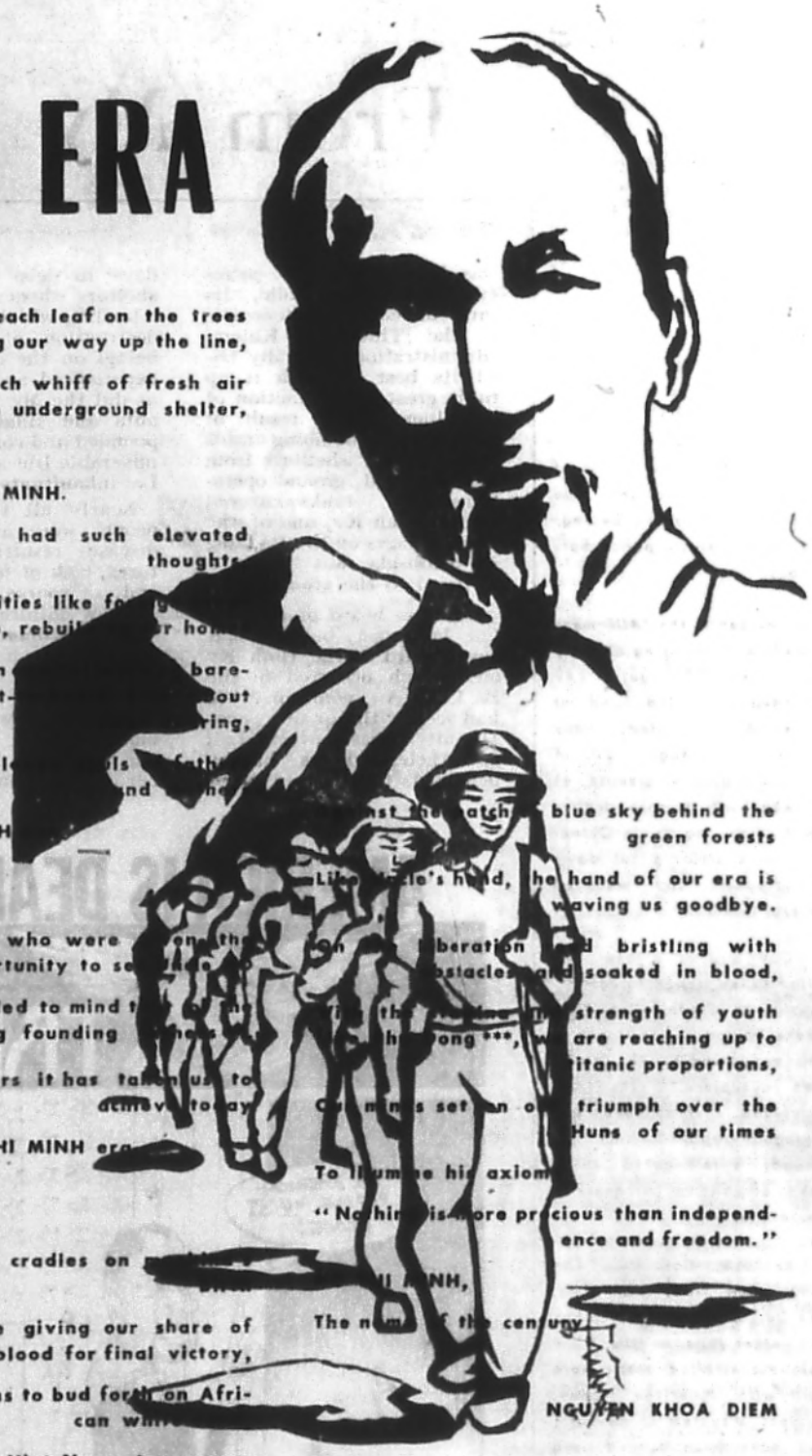
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

THE

HO CHI MINH ERA



When heroes lifting their heads fall
Shouting "HO CHI MINH ! HO CHI MINH !"
History like an engine shrilly announces
The next stop :
The HO CHI MINH era.

When generations of children and grand children treading in their sires' and grand sires' steps
Are after the foe on the HO CHI MINH road
History will start on the shortest cut
To the future :
The HO CHI MINH era.

Fired by grief and suffering we stand up oblivious of self,
The sense of our life being to resist the Yankee aggressors
We take on a giant's stature when holding our arms.
Viet Nam ! Oh our grandiose land !

After thousands of years the farmers are learning how to till the fields,
The scientists are pondering on the three *sao* of aluminous and salty land,
On the five tons of paddy to feed the melters of iron and steel for the front.
There is the song which haunts the steps of troops,
There is the love more radiant than the finest design,
There is the merriment of each folksong, the delight of each page of the *Kieu**,
There is the blue sky of Ba Dinh every one can look at,
There is our life pregnant with accomplishment in the lap of the masses,
Our growing love for each square inch of the land,

Our attachment to each leaf on the trees lining our way up the line,
Appreciation of each whiff of fresh air into the deep underground shelter,
Love for the land,
The land of HO CHI MINH.
Never have we had such elevated thoughts
From pressing priorities like fo[illegible] sion, rebuil[illegible] r ho[illegible]
To guarding children [illegible] bare-foot and heart-[illegible] out [illegible] ring,
Thirty million care-l[illegible] ls [illegible] fath[illegible] and [illegible] he[illegible]
In this HO CHI MINH [illegible]

Fortunate citizens who were [illegible] on th[illegible] opportunity to se[illegible]
Whose carriage called to mind t[illegible] Hung founding [illegible]
Four thousand years it has ta[illegible] us to achiev[illegible] to-day
Today — the HO CHI MINH era

Oh, we contributed cradles on [illegible]

And now we are giving our share of blood for final victory,
For green Viet Nams to bud forth on African w[illegible]
For rifle-carrying Viet Nams to emerge in Latin America,
For Viet Nams to uphold the HO CHI MINH truth,
Oh HO CHI MINH !
HO CHI MINH !
Leitmotiv of our march in autumn offensives
Which instils fire and pride into our hearts.

[illegible] blue sky behind the green forests
Like [illegible]le's h[illegible]d, the hand of our era is waving us goodbye.
Oh [illegible] beration [illegible]d bristling with [illegible]bstacles [illegible]d soaked in blood,
[illegible] th[illegible] strength of youth [illegible] h[illegible]ong ***, [illegible] are reaching up to [illegible]itanic proportions,
Our m[illegible]s set [illegible]n o[illegible] triumph over the [illegible] Huns of our times
To il[illegible]e his axiom
"No thi[illegible] is more precious than independence and freedom."
[illegible]I MINH,
The n[illegible] of the century.

NGUYEN KHOA DIEM

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* Master work of Nguyen Du, one of Viet Nam's greatest poets.

** First Vietnamese kings credited with the founding of the nation.

*** Legendary hero who saved Viet Nam from foreign invaders.

The IADL denounces:

CAY DUA a colossal slaughter-house

THE International Association of Democratic Lawyers denounced the murder of South Vietnamese patriots detained at the Cay Dua jail on Phu Quoc Island as follows:

"The Saigon administration has admitted that in 1969 630 persons died at the Cay Dua prison. Well over a hundred others lost their lives in 1970 as a result of punishment, privations, and brutalities by jailers belonging to 9 Saigon police battalions."

As evidence the IADL mentioned that the firing at ward 1, in May 1970 caused 149 wounded, 7 killed, and at ward A4 7 killed, many injured. On August 29, 7 prisoners died of disease as a sequel of a most drastic penitentiary regime. In October wanton strafing cut down 4 prisoners and wounded several others.

"Cay Dua is a new addition to the list of slaughterhouses in South Viet Nam where Saigon police is armed and supported by the American occupiers," the IADL concluded. "It has been applying a regime which has already exterminated thousands of political prisoners in South Viet Nam."

Cay Dua, Con Dao, Tan Hiep, Bien Hoa, Can Tho, Thu Duc, Da Nang, Qui Nhon and other jails in the US-Saigon-controlled areas were built with American money, possess a system of advisers and have been turned into colossal slaughterhouses.

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers condemns the fresh crimes committed by the USA against the South Vietnamese people, and calls on lawyers everywhere to take appropriated actions to end the aforesaid horrors of the USA and liberate all political prisoners.

(Concluded)

From My Lai to Ba Lang An

MY LAI – NOT AN ISOLATED CASE *

My Lai was only an atrocity of medium-size. Binh Ky (Binh Son), Son Kim, Son Chau, Son Quang and Son Phuoc (Son Tinh) were even more horrendous.

At Binh Ky urban center, the [US-Saigon] authorities penned up the people on a desert ground, stripped them of their clothes and forced them to kneel and bow their heads. Then the place was encircled with barbed wire fences and claymore mines. Finally guns were shot and mines sprung. The 1969 Binh Ky slaying was kept in complete secrecy from the public, its survivors could not denounce it, the [Thieu-Ky-Khiem] administration, naturally tried its best to hush it up to the greatest satisfaction of its allies. As a result of innumerable bombing raids from the air, shellings from warships and ground operations by tanks-covered troops, Binh Ky, one of the three villages on the Ba Lang An peninsula, was eventually razed to the ground.

One has heard of the My Lai holocaust, but one has never heard of the Binh Ky one which occurred on the Ba Lang An peninsula. We had seen with our own eyes the utter misery of My Lai, nevertheless it is hardly believable that in South Viet Nam, there exists a place where the people were in such a state of destitution as on this Ba Lang An peninsula. Manioc was the fare of the relatively "well-to-do" families whereas the less fortunate had to eat sea-weeds. While a minority in Saigon (the ruling clique-*Ed.*) are taking Western style meals in air-conditioned rooms and clamouring for a military victory, our people in Ba Lang An have to feed on sea-weeds...

Many people spent their days in deep underground shelters whenever there was a landing which entailed the destruction of all living beings on the ground. They experienced awful moments as did the My Lai inhabitants and finally were impounded and condemned to a miserable life as did the My Lai inhabitants.

Nearly all the peninsula people were affected with diseases resulting from tortures, lack of food, vitamins and, of course, medicines...

I saw children picking up from the ground every grain of rice and chewing it with relish before the envious eyes of others.

Quang Ngai was a province most exposed to defoliants and with the highest number of war casualties. From My Lai to Ba Lang An, from Son Tinh to Binh Son, Duc Pho, Mo Duc, every locality of this province was marked by a massacre or a "strafing by mistake." I have heard stories telling how people from My Lai were lifted by American trucks to Chu Lai base where they were asked to sign a document stating that the My Lai mass slaying had not happened, which would whitewash Calley the butcher of his crimes in spite of all the world's anathema. But those people from My Lai seemed fearless. Too many of their fellow-countrymen had died, so why should they fear any longer? As a matter of fact, three-fourths of the local population had for ever left this world! Isn't this a figure that makes many of us shiver? Yes, in only 5 years, the presence of foreign (American–*Ed.*) troops has produced that result. Meanwhile those (the Saigon authorities–*Ed.*) benefiting from the war have been entreating the Americans and the South Koreans not to quit this land for the sake of the "defence of freedom."

For the "defence of freedom," that's what was behind the sacrifice of three-fourths of our fellow-countrymen at Son My.

A "freedom" which resulted in people feeding on sea-weeds, as on Ba Lang An peninsula.

A "freedom" which was at the origin of My Lai, Binh Ky, Binh Duong (Thang Binh, Quang Nam).

A "freedom" which has orphaned hundreds of youngsters at Son My and Binh An, now living in direst straits.

At Binh An village, where only a small portion of the population survived the 1969 Binh Ky atrocity, I met an old man and this is what he told me: "While the whole nation were devoting themselves to fighting the French, they (the Saigon quislings-*Ed.*) brought the French aggressors to this village: houses were burnt and girls and women were assaulted. This did not prevent them from trumpeting their 'love for the Fatherland.' Those who wept at the departure of the French and who later on rejoiced at the arrival of the Americans, are not qualified to represent us and this nation!" The old man also told me that if Viet Nam was to enjoy peace, not only all foreign troops should quit, but all reactionary forces should also be overthrown.

I don't think that this nation is losing. The people at My Lai and Ba Lang An may be in want of food and clothing but they still have enough patriotism alive in them. This land shall ultimately have peace, no matter how brutal the foreign forces may be.

People have died at My Lai at the hands of GIs; those at Ba Lang An are dying a slow death as a result of the [Saigon] administration's policy. Thousands of individuals are still living here in detention, victims of the "sweep clean" policy.

While the administration is boasting of control over 99% of the territory and population, the My Lai people are dying and the jails in Quang Ngai are becoming overcrowded.

The My Lai villagers cannot keep on living like that. By fencing them in with barbed wire, they (US-Saigon – *Ed.*) do not treat them as human beings.

The My Lai of yore no longer exists. The My Khe white sand beach with its coconut-tree lines no longer exists. Son My is now a fattened land with no trace even of graves. The [US-Saigon] authorities have put the local people under detention and certainly to a gradual death.

The people in Ba Lang An peninsula have to feed on sea-weeds and manioc not for a day only, they have to carry on like that till the day the [US-Saigon] authorities no longer detain them.

No relief can bring any lasting improvement to their condition. It may give them enough food for only one day: what can give them enough food once for all, is returning their land to them.

Son My and Ba Lang An are the typical cases of Quang Ngai province, of the whole of Trung Bo and indeed of the whole of South Viet Nam.

So long as the [US-Saigon] authorities use violence against the people, they will be met with the latter's opposition.

No plea sounds plausible while South Viet Nam is dotted with concentration camps.

The people cannot be controlled by barbed wire fences or by flags painted on the front of their houses ** They owe allegiance only to policies meeting their aspirations.

The land and gardens at My Lai should be restored to their owners. The sea at Ba Lang An should be returned to the local people, and Viet Nam should be given back to the Vietnamese. The war will be settled only once there is respect for the people's right to self-determination. Peace will come only when foreign (US and satellite – *Ed.*) troops will be withdrawn. No elections can be free when bombs are rained on your heads and bayonets pointed to your throats."

* *Subheads are ours.*

** *The people are forced by the Saigon administration to do so, as a token of allegiance.*

On the Political Front in the past 40 days

"Peace now!" Saigon Students' slogan in a meeting

PARALLEL to PLAF activities in all theatres, the movement of South Viet Nam urban people has vigorously been stepped up and registered substantial successes in April and the first ten days of May. It was aimed at better living conditions and freedom and independence for the fatherland.

The most vigorous actions in the said period were directed against the Saigon administration's "seven economic measures." In Saigon and the adjoining city of Gia Dinh, well over a hundred protests took place, ranging from declarations, letters of denunciation and anti-government meetings to workers' sit-ins, walk-outs and limited and unlimited strikes. Employees in varied branches demanded that Thieu-Ky-Khiem abolish the taxes on salary, that the authorities and the American employers raise their wages to meet the rising cost of living. They urged the end of dismissals and of the fining system, better medicare and respect for the dignity of Vietnamese female employees in US enterprises.

The unrest reached its climax in the two weeks around May Day. Most remarkable in this period were the strikes of 80,000 public and private employees belonging to 21 Saigon TU organizations (April 24); that at the Esso petroleum company against sacking (since April 21); the two work stoppages for higher wages by 4,000 railway workers throughout South Viet Nam (May 3 and 8); that of 15,000 taxi-drivers in Saigon and Gia Dinh against fining and for higher hiring prices (April 26); the protest of the American AID car drivers for a pay rise (May 1); that of the Foreutmost Dairy Products Company at Thu Duc for better wages and medicare (April 22).

The above-mentioned actions were supported by TU organizations in Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities such as the 48 TU of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Workers' Confederation, the Saigon-Gia Dinh Pedicab Drivers' TU. The Teachers' Union, the Buddhists' Associations, the People's Self-Determination Movement in Saigon announced that their members would go on sympathetic strikes unless the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration met the demands of the workers and employees concerned.

Over 2,000 workers and labouring people of 29 TU organizations and 16 branches in Da Nang held a meeting on May 1, 1971 and adopted a 24-point resolution urging the Saigon administration to abolish taxes on public as well as private employees' wages. They warned the Saigon administration that if it did not meet the workers' claims, the latter would take more drastic actions to "halt production."

The second feature of the South Viet Nam cityfolks' movement throughout April and early in May is that it was also spearheaded against US "Vietnamization." This took on a mass character, unfolded in rich forms and steadily developed in the process. Newly-founded organizations such as the Wives and Mothers' Association for the Return of Their Husbands and Sons, the Students' and Pupils' Movement against Pressganging, the Movement against War and General Mobilization also militated against "Vietnamization." They called on active-duty soldiers not to take part in military training, not to undertake "mopping-up" or rescue operations, and on students and Vietnamese residents abroad not to enlist and fight against their own countrymen.

In a letter to the Foreign Relations Commission of the US Senate, made public on May 13 in Saigon, Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, Chairman of the Movement of Women's Action for the Right To Live, pointed out: "We once again demand the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam before the end of 1971."

At the same time, Mr Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Saigon Students' General Association, Prof. Nguyen Van Trung, Chairman of the Saigon Committee for the Improvement of the Prison Regime also sent letters to the Foreign Relations Commission of the US Senate, condemning the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and the fascist dictatorial regime of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio and demanding the withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

Meanwhile the Saigon Students' General Association, various university departments and middle-school classes held meetings and teach-ins, sit-ins in which the participants revealed the magnitude of the US-puppet débâcle in the recent invasion of Laos. Saigon and Hue students carried on their campaigns named "Tell our Fellow-Countrymen," "Sing Songs for Them" to expose atrocities perpetrated by the US occupiers and their native lackeys, at the same time glorifying their people's tradition of indomitable resistance to foreign invasion. About 40 middle schools in Hue issued "Struggle Bulletins" flaying American aggression, draft, terror and repression, and advocating peace. The Saigon Students' General Association addressed a letter to the US President, urging him to withdraw all American troops from South Viet Nam.

It sent representatives to meet Nguyen Van Thieu's vice-premier and voice the students' claims for autonomy in higher education establishments, to reconsider past arbitrary verdicts on their friends in all South Viet Nam towns and cities. Drives against pressganging and troop concentrations, for defection from the army and for boycotting military training session continued unabated in virtually all faculties and middle schools. On May 2, 1971 Saigon students held a large gathering and a demonstration in memory of girl student Nhat Chi Mai who immolated herself by burning in 1967 for peace and for an end to American aggression. At one of these meetings, a Catholic priest praised Nhat Chi Mai as "an illuminating peace torch in the dark." He urged the US to pull out all its troops from South Viet Nam.

Sit-ins, teach-ins of "Youth protest against oppression" have been held by the Saigon Youth Organization which called its members in the city to stage sympathetic strikes and carry out patriotic activities.

The Buddhists' peace movement rose on Buddha's birth anniversary (May 9). Scores of thousands of believers flocked to pagodas and temples to pray for the termination of the war. In Hue 50,000 people staged a peace march from Dieu De Pagoda to Tu Dam Pagoda while another 500 demonstrated in the streets. To the same end, 3,000 gathered in Cholon city. More particularly, to "fight for peace and demand an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam," a priest in Hue and another one at Cam Lo, Quang Tri province, made the sacrifice of their lives by fire.

To deal with the people's growing ebullience, the Saigon administration intensified its victimization. The press which kept on exposing the dictatorial ruling junta was among the hardest hit. In April, 17 papers were seized, 9 dailies and 4 weeklies severely fined, a private news agency ransacked and 2 editors-in-chief sentenced in law-court. Early in May, the Association of Saigon Newspaper Editors-in-Chief called on all pressmen to stand ready to fight against higher newsprint price and the "seven new economic Measures." On May 8, the Pressmen's Council put out a communiqué strongly protesting Thieu-Ky-Khiem's "arbitrary seizures of newspapers" and denounced their "long-standing misuse of the press regulations."

Another characteristic of the townsfolk's trepidation in the past forty days was that a mounting number of political, social, religious and cultural organizations in Saigon supported the Spring Offensive for peace in the United States. Braving the intimidation of the censors' office, on May 25, 26 and 27 Saigon papers frontpaged the show of strength put up by the American people against the US aggressive war. Under the headline "A Demonstration for Peace", *Tin Sang* (April 24) wrote: "The April 24 demonstration of the people of the United States has turned out to be one of the biggest in its history. Meanwhile many other countries held parades demanding the Americans to pull out of Viet Nam and give back to the Vietnamese people their right to self-determination. Everyone has come to realize that the blood-letting caused by the US military machine in this war-torn land of Viet Nam has reached an intolerable point for human conscience."

Alarmed by the upgrading political agitation of the urban people, the Saigon administration stopped at nothing to quell it. But as a Catholic priest said in a meeting on May 2 on the anniversary of Nhat Chi Mai's self-immolation, "no jail, no newspaper seizure, no police brutality can possibly thwart the peace aspirations deep-seated in the hearts of the South Vietnamese people."

AI THI

SOUTH VIET NAM

THE Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN is two years old. Its emergence was regarded by world opinion as a momentous landmark in the hard and victorious resistance of the South Vietnamese people.

This resistance, in the final analysis, is a process of seizing and re-seizing of control by the people over their cherished fatherland. With an expeditionary force of half a million men, more than half a million puppet troops and a whole quisling administrative machine as tools in their hands, the US imperialists have been trying to submit the people with terror and repression, challenging their sacred national rights and self-determination with a view to imposing their neo-colonialist rule. For their country's independence and freedom, for the right to be the masters of their land—which the August Revolution had brought them—the South Vietnamese people have been fighting against the US aggressors and their lackeys, and wresting back bit after bit, area after area, of their native soil.

The 1968 Tet general offensives and uprisings shattered big chunks of the Saigon administration. The people and their armed forces, combining political and military actions, rose up in varied places and set up People's Revolutionary Committees there. As a sequel of these great 1969 overall successes unknown thus far, in June 1969 the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee and the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces convened the All South Viet Nam People's Representatives' Congress, mapped out the line of the SVN revolution and set up the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN.

Clearly enough, the coming into being of the PRG constituted the inevitable outcome of the development of our people's struggle and also a landmark in the licking into shape of revolutionary power in South Viet Nam. The past two years and their realities have proved that this is truly a power of the people, for the people and by the people. The PRG was not merely welcomed upon its establishment, coupled with the announcement of a 12-point program; the people have ever since taken part in consolidating and enlarging this power, devoted themselves with might and main to defending it, while thoroughly applying all its policies and impelling the resistance in all fields. They have been going from one success to another and have enabled the people's power to strike deeper roots in the masses. In South Viet Nam today people's power is being brought into full play.

On the international scene, whereas public opinion is treating with scorn the Saigon traitors, the image of the PRG has been gaining increasing lustre. In the eyes of progressives everywhere the PRG, and it alone, is the true spokesman of the South Vietnamese people fighting for their country's genuine independence and freedom.

The last two years—two years of gruelling trials—have demonstrated the strong vitality of the people's revolutionary power. Those two years of application of the South Viet Nam NFL and of the PRG 12-point program have been a period of comprehensive growth of the resistance war, a period of unprecedented successes in our nation's confrontation with foreign invasion.

I

Coupling fighting and the building of our forces, we have mounted continuous offensives, maintained the combat initiative and step by step foiled US "Vietnamization"

For two years now the Nixon administration has been striving to realize its "Vietnamization" which is in essence protracting and expanding its cruel war of aggression on the Indochinese peninsula. It has made every effort to strengthen the quisling army and administration and, simultaneously, increase American all-round support so as to ensure US troop withdrawal, thereby lessening its difficulties and securing a position of strength on the battlefields.

Those have been, however, two years of successive setbacks for Nixon, for his "Vietnamization" and for his Asian doctrine. He has been unable to "change the colour of the corpses." If the puppet army have been suffering heavy losses, American troops have also been badly battered not only in operational theatres but in their rear bases as well. The American KIA (killed in action) list has been lengthening. In 1969 and 1970 only, 345,000 GI casualties have been recorded out of the total of 1,065,000 enemy troops put out of action during the same period. At the same time, on account of increased US support to the Saigon army, the number of American aircraft and armoured cars lost has also been soaring. In the said two years, 12,300 planes were downed or destroyed on the ground, 33,100 military vehicles – among these 17,400 tanks and armoured personnel carriers – put out of commission.

These have been stinging blows in terms of manpower and material at an army of aggression with no direct rear. But Nixon's fiasco on the South Vietnamese battlefields has been actually far greater. The above-mentioned figures show that the Saigon army is a rotten one, incapable of both offensive action and "house-keeping." Though armed to the teeth by the Nixon administration, it has lacked the morale indispensable to make full use of the supplied equipment.

As for US operational support, which keeps growing with every passing day, it has not succeeded in properly nerving an army whose morale has reached so low an ebb. The Americans have been testing varied mobile tactics with helicopters, tanks and APCs, etc. Instead of boosting that sagging morale, these iron masses just melt when struck by PLAF fire. So what Nixon has assembled from his strategic and tactical arsenal for use on the South Vietnamese battlefields has not produced the expected results. The strategic formula: native infantry + US support that hot heads in the White House and Pentagon regard as a guide-line, has experienced failure from the outset.

This was still more transparent in the recent invasion of Laos – operation Lam Son 719. "Vietnamization" pushed to the highest level was tested on the Highway 9 front, in Northern Quang Tri province and Southern Laos. Weren't graveyards of tanks and helicopters with cemeteries of Saigon troops lying in between, the sad outcome of the aforesaid strategic formula? the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces take pride in having, in coordination with their brothers of Laos and Cambodia inflicted initial setbacks on "Vietnamization" and shipwrecked the White House's and Pentagon's truculent dream and will.

OVER the last two years, under the people's revolutionary power, the South Viet Nam PLAF have been credited with dramatic achievements. Continuing the glorious traditions of a people's army, they have stiffened their resolve to fight and win, promoted their initiative of action, fought most courageously and successfully. They have been two years of sustained efforts and uninterrupted offensives in all the three strategic areas (the plains, hills and forests, and towns), offensives closely combined with simultaneous uprisings with a view to foiling the enemy's pacification plan and, initially, the "Vietnamization" strategy.

Grasping the principle of protracted fighting in revolutionary wars, the PLAF have closely combined military actions with strength build-up: they have done their utmost to destroy adverse forces while fostering and developing their own so that each successful battle, operation or campaign constitutes for them a step forward.

The rapid growth and substantial gains of the PLAF are associated with the NFL and PRG line on the building of the three categories of its armed forces in an overall fashion, ideologically and organizationally, politically and militarily, tactically and technically, operationally and logistically. The NFL and PRG have constantly linked the fostering of the people's political forces with that of the liberation forces, the preparation and expansion of the battlefields into the enemy-occupied zone with the building and defence of the liberated areas on all planes and the unceasing consolidation of the resistance bases, the direct bases of people's war.

The South Viet Nam PLAF have proved to be an invincible army, a powerful revolutionary army which grows stronger and more successful in the fighting process. They continue to develop harmoniously in the three strategic areas, with an extensive and strong guerilla force, powerful regional troops and a highly seasoned regular army. They have been equal to their strategic role in the people's war, thus permanently spreading thin the adverse forces, keeping them under fire everywhere and wreaking repeated reverses upon them.

The NFL and PRG sound military line is the first factor accounting for the PLAF feats, and the key to the expansion of the latter's global strength. Inversely, the progress and successes of the PLAF have brought out in relief the prestige and efficiency of the people's revolutionary power under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

II

Combining political with armed struggle, and continual uprisings to seize power, we have checked and initially thwarted the enemy's "rural pacification" plan.

Under his "Vietnamization" plan Nixon has been feverishly carrying out a rural pacification program, as the main measure to re-impose a neo-colonialist rule that has already been crushed by large bits. Toward this end the US aggressors and their henchmen have shrunk from no vicious war method, to herd the population into camouflaged concentration camps, including the levelling of vast regions with B-52 carpet bombings and toxic

PLAF fighters on the Khe Sanh Front assaulting Peak 500

UNDER REVOLUTIONARY POWER — UNDER REVOLUTIONARY POWER

GIANT STRIDES

chemical sprayings. Side by side with pacification, so-called *Phoenix* operations have been launched, deploying a force of ruffians specializing in assassination and kidnapping in order to liquidate revolutionary cadres and sap the people's power apparatus. The enemy have resorted to such brutalities in the very towns and cities with the hope of scaring away the revolutionary masses from their rear. Therefore, on the political front the last two years have witnessed the fierce resistance of wide social strata, supported by the PLAF, against pacification. In response to the NFL and the PRG appeal, South Viet Nam's population have mounted simultaneous uprisings, pulled down "strategic hamlets" and concentration camps and seized power in extensive regions. According to incomplete data, in this span of time, with well over ten million participations, the people blotted out a little over 8,500 "strategic hamlets" and concentration centres, wrested back control over another 3,600 hamlets with more than three million inhabitants. In the areas adjoining urban centres over 400 pacification brigades have been knocked out or disbanded and thousands of civil guard units consisting of nearly 300,000 members, dispersed. This has been possible thanks to an apt application of the "two feet and three spearheads" guideline and multifarious methods. In coordination with the PLAF, masses of people have invested and attacked enemy posts and garrisons and made away with wicked agents; they have taken part in teach-ins and parades, encircled pacification organs or irrupted into towns to fight against terror, impress of manpower for military structures or into the army, against population concentrations, or to denounce atrocities. With a clever combination of political and armed struggle and agitation among adverse troops, the population have brought into play the global strength of people's war, successively crossed the "accelerated," and "special" pacification projects and have bafled the "1971 common defence and regional development" plan.

Such an effective political move has made it impossible for the shaky Saigon administration to strengthen, still less to discharge its function as a tool of "Vietnamization." On the other hand it has helped ceaselessly expand the liberated zone, consolidate the apparatus of revolutionary power and its organs at all levels. In the areas which have freshly been freed from the enemy's grip, various popular segments have enthusiastically joined liberation organizations and been implementing the NFL policies, contributing manpower, material and financial resources to the resistance war.

The extension of the liberated zone and the ceaseless consolidation of revolutionary power have strengthened the resistance forces with each passing day, generating new potentialities, for the people's and PLAF further advances.

A single Viet Nam! A single Vietnamese nation!"

Slogan written by Hue Students on the wall of the city Arts School

VARIOUS social sections in the cities, towns and townships have pushed their drive a step forward. The emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces with a 12-point program of action have made a strong impact on the urban people. The latter have never ceased claiming an end to the US aggressive war, peace and a government without Thieu, Ky and Khiem, which will enter serious negotiations with the PRG of the RSVN. The striking feature of the urban turmoil over the last two years has been its relevant slogans with a deep political purport and directed at the US aggressive policy and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troika of traitors. It has been in fact a front of action rallying people from all walks of life: workers, labouring people, students and pupils, intellectuals, journalists, businessmen, members of all religious communities, political figures, members of opposition parties and of the Saigon Parliament.

Most arresting of all on the political front during the said period was the agitation of the students and pupils — the fuse of the cities' effervercence-with its multifarious and relentless militancy, against draft, forced military training, terroristic repression, enslaving and obscurantist culture and for academic autonomy. It has involved students of all universities and over 1,000 elementary and middle schools in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Qui Nhon etc. According to incomplete figures, since early 1969, there have been more than 5 million student and pupil attendances recorded in various protests.

Most remarkable has also been the coming into being of many political and social organizations such as the People's Front to Secure Peace, the Women's Movement for the Right To Live, the Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime, and others. The coming into being of these bodies has spelled out the utter isolation of the Saigon administration and the unceasing broadening of the people's front against US aggression, for national salvation.

The vigorous rise of the townsfolk's dissent has assumed a particular significance. The widening and rallying of new forces has compounded US.-Saigon weakness, passivity and failure. Their one-time sanctuaries, South Viet Nam's towns and cities, have been posing a heavy and permanent threat to them.

III

Stepping up production, promoting education, health and culture, consolidating and expanding step by step the liberated areas, we have been building up the bases of the resistance and improving continually the people's living standard

The building of the liberated areas is of paramount importance for South Viet Nam's revolution as a whole; it is at the same time the touchstone of the efficiency of the people's power, since accomplishments of the free areas in all fields are conditioned by the PRG lines and policies.

Taking into consideration the fact that the most important democratic right of the people living in an agricultural country is the right to own the land they till, the 12-point program of action of the PRG has unequivocally advocated the continued application of the agrarian policy initiated by the NFL, which is fully consistent with the specific situation in South Viet Nam. The South Vietnamese peasants have up to now become masters of 2.1 million hectares out of 3.5 million hectares of land under cultivation — 71.7% of the area grown in rice.

Gradually putting into effect the "land to the tiller" watchword, the PRG is for the stepping up of production to achieve self-sufficiency, to consolidate the liberated areas and enhance the people's strength in a long-drawn out confrontation with the enemy. The South Vietnamese peasants, once masters of the land benefiting from the sound guidance of the people's power at various levels, have been carrying on a tenacious fight against the enemy while intensifying production at any cost; in this effort they have been highly successful. The motto is: "Produce all the year round, harvest in all four seasons." Agricultural production in the liberated areas has continually been on the upgrade. Rice, vegetables and subsidiary crops are farmed everywhere, the acreage has been ceaselessly expanding, new or fallow lands are reclaimed, output and yearly rotation of crops have been raised meanwhile attention has been paid to more extensive cattle-breeding, poultry-raising, fish-rearing and other auxiliary trades.

Putting production on a par with combat, the people and the revolutionary power at all levels are especially concerned with intensive production and improvement of farming techniques with a view to ever higher productivity and uninterrupted supply of a large amount of food to the resistance while uplifting unceasingly the peasants' living conditions.

In spite of all efforts of the US aggressors and their henchmen to kill draught animals, and to destroy crops with chemicals, agricultural production has operated over the recent past, especially the last two years, a vigorous and radical change for the better. This has had a beneficial effect on the growth of other trades, and as a result, an uninterrupted betterment of the people's living standard and adequate satisfaction of the various requirements of the resistance have been recorded.

While developing economy, the PRG has also been keeping a keen eye on the fight against the enemy on the economic front and to economic exchanges between different liberated regions. A program has been outlined to control the interflow of goods between the liberated areas and the enemy-controlled areas: it aims at further consolidating the former's economy with things taken from the latter while trying to weaken the enemy economy and to frustrate the enemy scheme to partition and blockade the free territory economically.

In the liberated areas, state-run trade has vastly expanded: purchase-and-supply shops have been very instrumental in keeping going the exchanges of goods while acting as a mainstay in resisting the enemy economic plundering and monopoly.

TRUE to its ideal of serving the people, the PRG has been, over the last two years, vigorously impelling its educational, health and cultural work, to transform the liberated areas, improve the people's moral life and foster the resistance forces.

As an aftermath of the obscurantist policy of the US aggressors and their agent, the percentage of illiterate people in the newly-freed areas is quite high — sometimes 90 per cent of the population. The Liberation educational service has thus been faced with an urgent task: liquidation of illiteracy and gradual enhancement of the people's cultural standard. Owing to the solicitude of the people's power at all levels, millions of men and women have learnt in the last two years how to read and write. Many free lands of Western Nam Bo, the High Plateaux, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh provinces, etc. have done away with illiteracy. Special care has been given to complementary education for cadres and liberation fighters.

(Continued on page 8)

HO CHI MINH CITY

proves worthy of its eponym

UNDER American domination, Saigon has achieved fame in many respects: for the dust raised by US military vehicles, for the barbed wire fences around US-Saigon offices and residences, for its snack bars, dancing halls, night clubs for GIs, for the number of victims of US cars, for the black market by officers and servicemen, for assaults on Americans in the streets, for the seizures of newspapers... and at last for the size of anti-US Saigon turmoil.

Saigon which has had the honour of bearing the name of the Great President Ho Chi Minh is the city worst outraged and repressed by the enemy but is gallantly showing fight.

Saigon has simple but staunch citizens. They were the first to open up at the French colonialists and herald the nine-year sacred resistance war of the Vietnamese nation, and achieved unparalleled exploits.

Since the US imperialists set foot on Saigon, the people have never submitted to them (March 19, 1950).

Continuing the tradition of the August Revolution and of the nine-

year resistance war against the French colonialists, over the past 17 years of an atrocious US-quisling rule, Saigon has been grimly fighting back and exposing the ugly nature of the enemy.

RIGHT after the restoration of peace, in face of the US-Diem scheme to keep the country permanently partitioned, the Saigonese like other townsfolk throughout South Viet Nam immediately took to the streets for the implementation of the Geneva Agreements, the consultative conference on Viet Nam general elections, national reunification and for better living conditions. After that, the activities of the Saigon - Cholon peace movement have had a considerable impact on the whole country.

From 1955 to 1959, popular actions broke out one after the other, culminating in parades involving hundreds of thousands of workers, toilers, peasants, pupils, students, even prominent personalities and intellectuals... Braving savage repression like the fascist 10-59 law the people of Saigon and other cities many times denounced the US-Diem rotten regime and demanded peace, democracy, national reunification and better living conditions.

Especially since the founding of the National Front for Liberation (December 1960), Saigon has been up in arms with a new mettle, animated with the single purpose to overthrow the Diem-Nhu family dictatorship and US neo-colonialism. The trial of Professor Le Quang Vinh and of Le Hong Tu in 1962, the "Down with the US imperialists" and "Long live Ho Chi Minh" shout uttered by Nguyen Van Troi in 1964 fanned the sacred patriotic fire among the Saigon intellectuals and workers. Together with other cities in South Viet Nam, Saigon staged repeated protests and stepped up the drive against the US and its agents in the towns to a new high. From the self-immolation of Superior Bonze Thich Quang Duc to the pupils and students' action for the repeal of dictator Nguyen Khanh's jungle law, the Saigonese constantly harassed the US-quislings, kept the Saigon administration in a continual crisis, and denounced the US imperialist aggressors to world opinion.

To save the puppet army and administration from collapse, the US imperialists massively brought troops into South Viet Nam, regarding Saigon as a Chicago, where they could rule the roost and behave as they pleased with the population. Never was Saigon so outraged and down-trodden. Hatred flared up among its citizens. Opposition ran high in Saigon like in Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho and other cities of South Viet Nam, driving the US and their henchmen into a fix. A front against US aggression took shape in the towns. To fight the Yanks has become a common motto and a pressing demand of all strata of the Saigon people.

Coordinated actions were staged one after the other by workers, pupils, students, intellectuals, writers, newsmen, religious believers, parents of students and pupils, women... against the US-puppets, politically more and more isolated.

Coupled with those political demonstrations, an armed movement developed which brought home to the US aggressors and the traitors that Saigon was no longer a sanctuary. Many quarters slipped away from their control. The Saigon liberation armed forces were not only around the city but right inside it.

In the generalized offensives and uprisings early in Spring 1968 in particular, the Saigon people stood up like one man together with the Liberation armed forces, and poured fire on the US-puppets everywhere in the city in the US Embassy, the Independence Palace, the airfield, the logistic bases..., blazing away at the US-puppet lair and shaking their last refuge.

TREADING in Johnson's steps, Nixon has been striving to stick to the Saigon traitors, actively build up their army, carry out "Vietnamization," frenziedly "pacify" both countryside and towns. He adventurously invaded Cambodia and Laos. He has been prolonging and extending the war throughout Indochina in an attempt to implement the "Nixon doctrine" in Asia... On the other hand, the enemy have been cracking down

upon the movements for welfare, democracy, better living conditions, ruthlessly exploiting the labouring people in the towns through heavy taxes and other economic measures... to feed their war.

However, imbued with beloved President Ho Chi Minh's teaching that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and holding aloft their tradition of indomitability and steadfastness, the Saigonese have been keeping up their effort against the US aggressors and their strawmen. The workers and other labouring people, students, prominent personalities, intellectuals, writers, newsmen, industrialists, political parties, religious communities, including members of the Saigon "national assembly," have associated themselves with it.

Workers and employees in US enterprises and office, have been waging a relentless struggle against the US, for wage-lifts to catch up with soaring living cost, and for better working conditions, against sackings and wage-cuts.

THEIR blows have been struck at the US-puppet economic and logistic bases, impeding their economic and military activities in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam.

Using a host of methods, the students and pupils of Saigon and other cities have been militating against the US-Thieu-Ky-Khiem drafting of soldiers, sending of South Vietnamese youths to Cambodia and Laos as cannon-fodder in the place of GIs, against the militarization of schools, repression, terrorism, arrests, massacre and for welfare, democracy, college autonomy...

Since 1969, there have been over 5 million attendances in these actions. In April 1970, nearly one million students and pupils in Saigon and other towns took to the streets against the US-Thieu-Ky-Khiem. They occupied the Cambodian Embassy for 10 days in protest against the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique's slaughter of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Since February 1971, the murder of 12-year-old pupil Nguyen Van Minh at Bo De school (Qui Nhon) has triggered a powerful movement against US aggression among the students and pupils in Saigon. Demonstrations have been held throughout Saigon under the motto "Yankees go home," "Down with the American assassins," with the sacking of the US Embassy, the burning of Nixon's effigy and US cars and the claim for punishment of the murderers.

The students and pupils have made no bones that the USA are the aggressors, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem traitors, "Vietnamization" a trick to prolong the aggressive war and the Nixon five-point peace plan a fraud. Others of their slogans have been: "Bunker behaves like a governor," "Thieu-Ky-Khiem are cruel despots," who, they insist, pay no consideration to the past, to the present or to the future and therefore must go.

The intellectual circles in Saigon and other cities of South Viet Nam including writers, newsmen, engineers, doctors, professors and prominent intellectuals have also raised their voices against US enslaving culture, for the defence of the national culture and to extol the culture born of the resistance war. A number of organizations have come into being in Saigon: the Popular Front for the Fight for Peace, the Women's Movement for the Right to Live, the Committee for a Better Penitentiary Regime..., rallying people from all walks of life. The Saigon industrialists have been championing a sovereign economy free from dependence on the USA, and opposing the regime's disastrous economic measures...

Despite continual newspaper seizures, violences, fines and jail sentences against newsmen, the Saigon press has managed to give a partial picture of the US-quislings' setbacks on the battlefields and to denounce their muzzling of the freedom of expression...

THOSE protracted, sustained and versatile actions against the aggressors and the traitors show that Saigon has never ceased being valiant, staunch and worthy of her name: "Ho Chi Minh City." It feels an implacable hatred for the American invaders. At the side of the entire people, the heroic Saigonese pledge to contribute a due share to the resistance war against the US aggressors and their stooges

in order to liberate Saigon and South Viet Nam, and wrest back independence and freedom for the Fatherland.

NIEN NGUYEN

The people from HO VILLAGE

IN May 1960: M.T. village of Long An province changed its name into "Ho village." That month also saw the start of "concerted uprisings" in Long An. There were two reasons to the M.T. peoples's naming their village after the national leader: it was to show veneration to him, and also to mark a feat by one of the local oldagers. In the course of a "denounce Communists" campaign, this older was hanged by the enemy because he had cast the following words into their faces: "Get out of this place! Since President Ho was born on this land, all Vietnamese, either from North or South, have regarded themselves, as his nephews and nieces. All inhabitants of this M.T. village, old or young, are solid for President Ho, they will never join the traitors..."

With these words engraved deep on their memory, the M.T. villagers saw their old fellow-countryman to his last resting place, then took unanimous decision to change their village's name into "Ho village."

They had been longing for the day of national reunification on which they will be able to welcome Uncle Ho in their own village—a village that, for decades, counted not a single agent of the enemy among its inhabitants. They all were animated with a single purpose: to accomplish with distinction all anti-US struggle tasks, to defend their native land so as to please Uncle and be worthy of his name.

The news of the President's passing away filled the people of the village with deep grief. Looking towards the North, they cried out his name and observed a week-long mourning. Then a procession was staged displaying an altar with his last instructions written on a tablet on it.

A 70-year-old woman leaning on her stick came before the altar and said: "I know that President Ho's solicitude for my sons was greater than mine. Now that he is no longer, may I request the Revolution to allow me to look after two liberation fighters till victory day, as a token of my gratitude towards the President."

Hong, a 21-year-old member of the Revolutionary People's Youth was kept in Saigon Catinat Prison for over 3 years. As soon as she had escaped she wrote a letter to her organization, asking for a new assignment. During her prison term, what kept up her strength and sustained her fight was the thought of Uncle. How many times hadn't she been put to such brutal torture by the prison's cruel guards that everyone believed she would not survive, but each time she shouted: "Long live President Ho Chi Minh!" and her stamina was renewed. An American psy-war expert and professional spy of the place had this to say: "I've been doing this job in South-east Asia for over 20 years, but never have I met an opponent possessed of such a confidence in his leader as that young attractive girl!"

Said Hong to the village Revolutionary Committee's head at the death of President Ho: "I've grown up in this Ho village and been fed with its rice and water. May the Revolution allow me to remain and fight here to show my gratitude to Uncle!"

Nhan Nghia was blind for several decades, but still kept a photo of President Ho on him. He often told his sons and daughters: "Your eldest brother Hai has been regrouped into the North, he must have met President Ho. Sooner or later the Yanks will be driven out of the South. The President will then come here. Even though I shan't be able to see him, I'll go and acclaim him."

On the day the head of the village Revolutionary Committee read out President Ho's supreme message, Nhan Nghia came near to him and told him in a firm voice: "What President Ho has instructed us to do, we must endeavour to do well, or we shall fail in our duty toward him. I have one son left, may I offer him to the revolution?"

In the days following the memorial ceremony for Uncle Ho, all Ho villagers busied themselves with resistance jobs: the old folks sharpened bamboo picks for traps, the guerillas, male and female, assisted by little pioneers, dug communication trenches or erected hedges for the "fighting village." Several vigils were kept by them. On the altar to President Ho, enlisting applications piled up, written often in blood by young men and women. Sometimes, they bore the signatures of old parents who candidly wrote: "Let my son first undergo the training. The revolution will not have to bother about his gun and equipment. We ourselves shall manage to capture some from the enemy for him!"

Mr Tu Sanh, a man from Dien Chau district, Nghe An province (North Viet Nam), was a staunch fighter who had joined the army at the very first hours of the anti-French resistance in the South. Seriously wounded during an engagement near Binh Nhat railway station, he had asked for an assignment in Ho village. He told the villagers there how the people in President Ho's native place — Sen village — lived and worked, and said: "Uncle Ho was going on for eighty, but he never tired of working for the nation and the people. I myself, since I joined you here to fight the Yanks, I've spent no day without a thought of the North and of Uncle Ho. Now that Uncle is gone, I cannot sit idle!"

He then set about to organize a guerilla unit composed only of men specializing in collecting coconuts. Thus, following the example set by the Ben Tre - My Tho people — where coconut-trees grow in abundance — a new front was opened on the tops of coconut-trees. During his last training session, it happened that from the province capital an enemy "rural pacification" team was also about to wade in. Tu Sanh told his guerillas mates: "Let them come! Be they Yankees or Saigon troops, we will ask for the privilege to join battle first in the name of our Ho village. We'll have to translate into deeds Uncle Ho's last wishes, so we must fight with utmost courage and secure victory. After the fighting, we will ask Uncle's soul to let us call our unit the 'Sen village's ** Guerilla Group'."

As a matter of fact, the enemy was caught in the coconut-tree maze. From treetops, bullets rained on them.

After letting off a round from his machine-gun, Tu Sanh climbed down from his tree and crawled along the edge of a pond. He got near to a dead GI, picked up his belt of cartridges, flung it over his shoulders, then, in no time, up another tree he went. From there, he fired shot after shot, amidst continuous explosions from other guerillas' guns. The soil was soon littered with enemy corpses. After her fifth kill, Tu Nga a woman guerilla realized that no more cartridges were left. She could not help feeling a regret especially at the sight of dwelling houses set afire by the enemy. Gathering all her strength, she kicked down a bunch of dried coconuts on the head of an American soldier. The latter was training his gun on her, when her husband from a nearby tree cut him down with his machine-gun.

A guerilla named Hao, his two hips laden with cartridges was jumping from treetop to treetop, to serve ammunition. As he was coming to Tu Nga's shelter, he looked down and saw 8 Saigon mercenaries.

Immediately he undid the safety pin of his grenade and threw it down, killing or wounding 6 enemy troops on the spot. The remaining part of the raiding team was soon driven out of the village by other guerilla fighters.

From one of the treetops, resounded Tu Sanh's voice with his Nghe An accent: "Comrades, the enemy may come back. Let's swear to Uncle Ho: today the Ho village guerillas shall not come down from the coconut tress so long as there is a single enemy left in the village."

Lifting in unison their guns, Tu Sanh's friends answered: "Yes! So we swear!"

"So we swear," echoed other fighters hidden in communication trenches and orchards. They were members of self-defence units fighting in coordination with Sanh's guerilla mates. Among them, were young men and young girls who had fought scores of engagements in defence of Ho village; not a few had been cited "Valiant Fighters" and decorated by higher authorities.

As the day wore on, two US-puppet platoons again tried to enter Ho village. Arrived at the entrance, they opened fire. No reply from the villagers. Thirty minutes later, the enemy units were again under a deluge of bullets from the coconut trees.

One might now hear the footsteps of the self-defence men and women rushing into position amidst the cries and tocsin-beating of the villagers. Guerillas' shots criss-crossed the air, disturbing the enemy formations. Tens of "resistance" obstacles fell down to block the enemy's way. Completely disorganized, the raiders fled in confusion and tumbled against exploding grenades or into booby-traps: nearly all of their two platoons were wiped out.

Tu Sanh's son-in-law was hit by an enemy bullet. Jumping from the top of his coconut-tree, the old man bandaged his wound then pointed his machine-gun at the enemy below. He finished up the whole lot with a grenade.

As night fell, under the Ho village guerillas perching on the treetops, there remained alive only ten enemy soldiers who raised their hands to surrender. More than 130 US-puppet troops had paid for their crimes.

So the engagement ended, and all Ho villagers — guerillas and civilians alike — assembled around President Ho's altar and reported their unusual achievements.

TRAN THANH

* *President Ho's native place.*

SOUTH VIET NAM GIANT STRIDES

(Continued from page 5)

Another notable educational performance is its continued licking into shape of the general education system in the midst of a particularly atrocious war. Schools of various degrees have been functioning everywhere, including places classified as "free-fire zones" by the enemy. Pre-school classes are also run by the NFL and PRG even despite absence of safety and an acute shortage of equipment. The three-degree system of education keeps expanding. The content of the curriculum has been enriched and improved; it has been unified and made consistent with the PRG policy of "shaping a national and democratic education."

Ethnic minorities have had their own schools teaching suitable curricula through vernacular languages, which is no small achievement.

The health service is a true "people's service" credited with uncommon efforts to "impel the medical and sanitary work, apply prophylactic measures and look after the people's health, prevent and deal with epidemics, curb dangerous diseases left by the US-puppet regime"... and all this in the context of an atrocious war.

Active, resolute, versatile and often daring methods have been used to set up the liberation health network from the centre to various localities, in all the three kinds of areas, with adequate organizational forms and activities. As South Viet Nam has been parcelled out as a result of war, the building and consolidating of the health service at the province and district levels has received special attention. All provinces have their own comprehensive network of medical service. Nearly all districts have their medical stations, their drug-producing teams, their dispensaries with from 20 to 30 beds. The surgical branch has been progressing by leaps and bounds; it can now attend to nearly all wounded armymen and civilians. Efforts have been concentrated on such diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, liver trouble and other dangerous diseases left by the US-Saigon regime. The pharmaceutical branch has overcome tremendous difficulties to supply enough medicines, both prophylactic and therapeutic, to the army and the people; it has succeeded in turning out 24 kinds of Oriental medicines and 22 kinds of Western medicament from local ingredients.

Basing itself on the "prevention comes first" principle the South Vietnamese health service has set up a whole network of sanitaria and initiated active measures of disease prevention, as a result of which the people's life has undergone a radical change in the sense of a more widespread application of science.

CULTURAL activities have been pushed up in the last two years under the people's revolutionary power and have contributed to a change in the people's life and to the resistance against US aggression.

Publication of books and newspapers has been given a strong fillip despite war and shortage of materials. Newspapers have, with better quality, become efficient popular instruments against the enemy scheme to make use of their decadent culture to hold sway over our people. Publishing work has been developed to better serve the political tasks and meet the needs of readers at home and abroad.

Liberation cinematography, heir to the film industry of the war against French colonialism, has produced documentary films of a historical value and contributed in no small way to the education and mobilization of the people in their persevering struggle against US aggression. The various gold, silver and bronze medals awarded by international film festivals to films produced by Liberation Studio and Liberation Army Studio have been tokens of the acknowledgement by friends all over the world of our continual progress, both in content and technique, in this field.

Notable have been the progress of our song and dance ensembles. Schools for training artistes of various kinds have been opened by the Ministry of Information and Culture; they are the main source of supply of performers. Their activities in fighting South Viet Nam today are a kind of true fight in which art constitutes the main weapon which requires from the artistes not only creativeness and intelligence, but also courage and determination to surmount hardships and difficulties and readiness to make any sacrifice just like fighters at the front.

Apart from professional companies, a mass movement of songs and dances has been set on foot as a special feature of the liberated areas, which has made life under enemy bombs and shells more pleasant and more worth living and defending for the combatants. Drawing, painting and photography have had much to their credit; they have recorded the most original scenes of fighting and those of the people's war at its climax. They have been hoarding for future generations images of individuals who are common human beings haloed with uncommon exploits,—the poor men and women of tiny Viet Nam who is holding in check the chieftain of imperialism, the cruellest and richest imperialism of our epoch.

However, the most important change has been brought about by cultural activities in the age-old way of life of our people: a new way of life has been moulded to keep pace with the revolutionary development. One has witnessed the removal on the whole of habits and customs inherited from old societies and made "up-to-date" by the US aggressors with a label of "civilization" to pervert the minds of the people. Backward, narrow-minded, colonialist-inspired ways of life have been replaced by new ones, wholesome, civilized and simple but rewarding and dignified.

All the above-mentioned gains are still far short of the requirements of a new social order. But realized in the throes of war and in so short a time — only two years of revolutionary state rule — they represent indeed signal feats of the South Vietnamese people, and invaluable contributions to our national liberation cause and to the progress of mankind as well.

IV

Stick to the foreign policy of peace and neutrality, uphold the position of righteousness and good will, unremittingly enhance the international prestige and influence of the people's revolutionary power.

A review of our sucesses in two years under the people's revolutionary power would be incomplete if mention were not made of the PRG higher international and diplomatic credit.

What comes to the fore is the fact, often referred to by the Western press, that immediately after its formation, the PRG was recognized by scores of countries willing to set up diplomatic relations with it. This zeal highlighted their acknowledgement of the representativeness and legitimacy of the PRG and their affection and admiration for it and the South Vietnamese people who had been successfully resisting the chieftain of imperialism — the most brutal aggressor in history. It also spelled out a failure of the US imperialists and their henchmen who had at their disposal formidable modern mass media to shower everyday on the world public a deceptive and crafty propaganda aimed at misrepresenting the role and value of the PRG as the people's revolutionary power in South Viet Nam.

The answer from the world's peoples and governments was quick to come with actual deeds: it was reaffirmed by them that the PRG was the only legal representative of the South Vietnamese people fighting with increasing efficiency against the US aggressors. The peoples all over the world have been granting the South Vietnamese people, the NFL and PRG all political, moral and material support for the conduct of their resistance. A broad world front has been formed to support the fighting South Vietnamese.

The PRG considerable international prestige has been further enhanced by the many invitations it has received from European, Asian, African and Latin American countries to visit them or to open Information Bureaus there, and also by the decisions taken by international conferences to oust representatives of the Saigon administration and to welcome instead those of the PRG.

World opinion is still echoing approval of the sound stance and goodwill attitude shown by the PRG and NFL in the search for a political solution to the South Viet Nam issue, expounded in the ro-point overall solution and 8-point clarification put forward at the Paris Conference. The PRG has, through these peace initiatives, proved to be the genuine exponent of the interests and aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, and their authoritative spokesman in the settlement of the South Viet Nam conflict, always eager to arrive at a political settlement to end the war and restore peace.

It has not been easy to conquer a place in the hearts of the world peoples, nor is it fortuitous that the fighting banner of the PRG has been fluttering in many a capital in the world, appearing in parades through large avenues of the US capital city, and been held high in front of the Capitol by Viet Nam veterans. Such expressions of friendship would be of great value even in normal conditions. But against the rain of rotten eggs and tomatoes on US-Saigon men, from President Nixon down to such petty agents as Thieu and Ky, each hand-shaking, greeting, wish, message, slogan, flag-brandishing and — what is greater — an ebullient teach-in or some tons of medicines or guns sent to South Viet Nam, has been indeed really gratifying for a people's revolutionary power established at the cost of immense sacrifices of the people. Friends throughout the five continents, including the United States of America, have done their bits to give added lustre to the PRG flag in the international arena. Millions of people in this world, including anti-war Americans, have been chanting:

— **Peace now!**
— **NFL will win!**
— **SVN PRG, true representative of the South Vietnamese people, will win!**

OUR comprehensive achievements have stimulated the resistance to US aggression and the consolidation of the new regime under the people's revolutionary power. They further prove that:

— the PRG is a genuine government of the peoples, for the people and by the people;

— the 12-point program of action of the PRG has an increasingly great impact on the South Vietnamese people's life and struggle;

— the PRG is the legitimate representative possessed of full authority and competence in the settlement of all South Vietnamese problems.

Two years represent a short period of time, but under their revolutionary power the South Vietnamese people have made giant strides. This shows that the PRG represents faithfully the people's interests and aspirations consistent with the requirements of the situation in South Viet Nam. One can understand why this power is consolidated and expanded with every passing day and its influence is becoming greater and greater in the liberated areas, the enemy-controlled territories and even in the world at large.

Such a power has a very strong vitality. To seize power is the goal of any revolution. It is a considerable accomplishment of the South Vietnamese revolution to have seized power and to make it stronger: this represents an important step on the road to the liberation of South Viet Nam and to an independent, neutral, peaceful, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam. Possessed of a strong power, the South Vietnamese revolution now has at its disposal a factor of prime importance to march towards complete victory.

We are engaged in a rousing competition for exploits to greet the second founding anniversary of our people's revolutionary rule. Looking back at the road traversed in the last two years, we can take pride in our past work and feel as if our confidence and strength have redoubled, and we hold firmer our guns in hand in defence of this people's power!

HUYNH VAN LY

(Article from **Giai Phong** *(Liberation), Central Organ of the NFL)*

Supplying the battle front

LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT'S NEW PROPOSAL

REPRESENTATIVES of the Standing Committees of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Alliance of Patriotic and Neutralist Forces met in a conference in a liberated area of Laos on April 26 and 27, *KPL* reported.

In a joint communiqué, the conference exposed the US failure in its war escalation and expansion in Laos and other Indochinese countries. It recalled the recent big successes of the three Indochinese peoples, especially those on Highway number 9 and in Southern Laos, and strongly denounced the subversive activities of the US and its Lao extremist agents who have been obdurately opposing all peace efforts of the Lao patriotic forces.

The Conference unanimously approved the new proposals of the Lao Patriotic Front on the basis of the 5-point political solution for a peaceful settlement to the Lao problem, namely :

1 – The US must end its intervention and aggression in Laos ; in the immediate future, it must stop completely the bombing on the whole Lao territory without any conditions whatsoever.

2 – After the US ends the bombing :

a. The armed forces in Laos will immediately enforce a cease-fire and halt all inroads or encroachments on the areas controlled by the other side ;

b. The Lao parties concerned will immediately discuss the formation of the Provisional Coalition Government and other problems of common concern, including the guarantee of the strict respect of the neutrality of the Kingdom of Laos as provided for by the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

The Conference regarded the aforesaid realistic initiative of the Lao Patriotic Front at the present juncture as a very logical and reasonable one which timely answers to the legitimate demands of public opinion at home and abroad including the American people who have been militating for the termination of the US aggressive war in Laos and other Indochinese countries.

LAOS APRIL, 1971 :

▦ Some 1,600 enemy put out of action

▦ 35 aircraft downed and 23 military vehicles destroyed or captured

ACCORDING to *KPL*, in response to the appeal of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee on the occasion of the National New Year-Festival (April 14) and folfowing up the victory over the US-puppets' Operation "Lam Son 719" in Southern Laos, in April 1971, the Lao people and their armed forces mounted continuous and simultaneous attacks and won repeated victories.

In the early days of April, Ban Na, Sam Thong - Long Cheng, Muong Nham (Xieng Khoang province) and the surroundings of the Luong Prabang town were taken under fire. The patriotic forces engaged the enemy right in his lairs such as Southern Thakhet (Kham Muon), Sala - Naden, Huoi Hai (Savannakhet), Muong Pathum - Phon (Siphanlon), Huoi Sai (Saravane), West of Highway 13 (Borikhamsay), Salaphoun, Nam Ken and Ka-Xi (Vientiane). The Lao flak sucessfully shattered the airborne commandos in Muong Nong and along Highway 9 (Savanakhet).

Initial reports said that, in April 1971, the Lao people and their armed forces had put out of action 1,588 enemy, including 71 taken prisoner, 102 others who had changed side, and 200 Thai mercenaries. 35 aircraft, mostly helicopters, were shot down, 759 arms were seized or destroyed including 4 heavy artillery pieces, 23 military vehicles, 14 radio transmitters and 6 gasoline tanks and food storages.

Many important areas including Ban Nha and Muong Nham which had been illegally occupied by the enemy were taken back and 750 detainees freed.

The prominent victories of the Lao people and their armed forces last month were their attacks on Thai mercenaries, the Vientiane puppet troops in Ba Na and on Peak 1,900 in Muong Nham where 700 enemy were wiped out and 7 aircraft shot down in 5 days ending April 2, on the enemy stationed in Ban Ban, Muong Mun, northwest of Seno (Khampassak and Siphandon provinces) where the enemy took nearly 600 casualties in mid-April.

According to latest report, the Lao armed forces have just won a new exploit in their attack on the enemy in Muong Phalan area during four days ending May 4. As a result, 2 Vientiane puppet battalions and 2 companies were heavily decimated with 300 killed or wounded and 100 others captured, 8 US aircraft downed and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition seized. Muong Phalan was liberated.

Lao woman guerilla in action

a gesture of unquestionable goodwill

THE Lao Patriotic Front once again made a commendable effort to peacefully end the aggressive war waged by the US imperialists in Laos. On May 12, 1971, Mr Tiao Souk Vongsak, special envoy of Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the LPF, submitted to Prince Souvanna Phouma new proposals on a cease-fire and the formation of a provisional coalition government right after the US has completely stopped the bombing on the whole territory of Laos.

The people of the Indochinese countries and the world who warmly welcomed the five-point political solution suggested by the LPF on March 6, 1970 for the Lao problem, will see ever more clearly the sound, logical and reasonable nature of the new offer aimed at making it possible for the parties concerned in Laos to discuss and settle their own affairs without foreign interference. It is consistent with the Lao people's aspirations and interests, and with the interests of peace in South-East Asia and the world. It shows the LPF sincere desire to see the end of the war, to realize national concord for the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

Everybody is aware that the US has actually replaced the French colonialists in Laos. They have so far carried out a far-reaching and systematic scheme to turn Laos into a new-type colony and a military base against the peoples in Indochina and South-East Asia. It is precisely the US which has seriously sabotaged the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, overthrown the Tripartite National Union Government, and triggered off a "special war" in Laos.

The US-engineered coup d'etat in April 1964 has turned the Vientiane authorities into a tool of US neo-colonialism.

Under the Nixon administration, the US has been striving to implement the so-called "Nixon doctrine on Asia," pushing up the air war of extermination against the Lao people. It has ordered the Vang Pao armed agents, the Lao rightist army, the Thai mercenaries and American combat troops to mount repeated encroachment raids on the areas under the control of the LPF and Lao patriotic neutralist forces. As the "Vietnamization of the war" in South Viet Nam was facing bankruptcy and the war expansion in Cambodia meeting with bitter setbacks, last February the US flung over 40,000 US and Saigon troops with a most concentrated ever air force on the Indochinese battlefield, into Operation "Lam Son 719", which was eventually foiled by the Lao people and liberation armed forces.

Along with war intensification and expansion, the US imperialists have been constantly pressing upon the extremist reactionaries in Laos to thwart the peaceful settlement of the Lao issue. On their bosses'orders, the Vientiane quislings have been constantly making white black by slandering the Vietnamese people and misrepresenting the LPF goodwill in an attempt to mislead world opinion which is strongly critical of them.

It is crystal clear that the US imperialists' aggressive policy has been the source of all suffering and mourning of the Lao people. Therefore, to settle the Lao problem, the US must put an end to its aggression, first of all stop completely and unconditionally the bombing on the whole territory of Laos and let the Lao people settle their own affairs without outside interference.

The new LPF peace overture is obviously an important move. The peace- and justice-loving people the world over are waiting for the US and Prince Souvanna Phouma's response to it.

Standing in the same frontline against the US aggressors, the South Vietnamese people wholeheartedly support it. They unanimously approve the stern warnings of the Standing Committees of the LPF and Alliance of Lao Patriotic and Neutralist Forces in their joint communiqué on April 27, 1971 which said in part : " If the US imperialists and their stooges obdurately prolong and extend their aggressive war, in defiance of the LPF proposals and the Lao and world peoples' legitimate aspirations, the Lao patriotic forces will further close their ranks and, together with the entire people and all nationalities in Laos, fight on and defeat the US aggressors and their hirelings."

The South Vietnamese will resolutely strengthen their solidarity with the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples in all circumstances, resolved to persistently step up the fighting till total victory and restore a genuine peace on the whole Indochinese peninsula.

THE PALESTINIAN ARABS' just and surely victorious cause

(Concluded)

II — THE INEVITABLE SOLUTION: THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE

THE above-mentioned situation has had a shocking aftermath: more than one million Palestinian Arabs have been driven away from their houses, gardens and homeland to become refugees living a destitute life in many countries. Their number has increased with the expansion of the Israeli aggressors, at US beck and call:

1949: 940,000; 1956: 1,019, 201; 1970: 1,425,219 (3).

Most of them live in Arab countries in utter misery. According to foreign sources, they are huddled up to 8 persons in an old canvas tent open to the wind. Their diet of rice and vegetables barely provides 1,500 calories a day while they need 2,500. Hence they are stricken with deficiency diseases, anemia, tuberculosis, scurvy and rheumatism. Nightmarish have been long trips under a scorching sun, during which thousands of children died of starvation, cold and heat. Infantile mortality is particularly high: 320 per thousand.

Life in the Palestinian refugees' camps constitutes sternest denunciation of the crimes by the imperialists and the Israeli expansionists.

This leaves the Palestinian Arabs only one way out: to take up arms and fight until they recover the most precious things they have lost, their independence and freedom. Only then can the Palestinian Arabs lead a genuinely human life.

As a matter of fact, they have been fighting since half a century, but they clearly realized this truth after 1950. Armed resistance has helped consolidate it. The Congress of Representatives of Palestinian Patriots in Jerusalem in May 1964 and the Meeting of all Palestine Liberation Organizations in February 1969 have been landmark in this process. The eighth session of the National Council of Palestine on March 5, 1971 passed a programme of political action to intensify the struggle against the Israeli aggressors, agents of the US imperialists.

For over four years (1965-early 1969) the Palestinian guerillas fought nearly 300 engagements, wiped out about 4,000 Israeli aggressors, downed 21 planes and destroyed more than 800 military vehicles. But from April 1969 to March 1970 they launched 5,062 attacks big and small, put out of action 2,692 enemy troops and 2,031 military vehicles and brought down 24 planes. In the war imposed by the Israeli aggressors in June 1967, the Palestinian guerillas bravely fought shoulder to shoulder with other Arab peoples on all fronts. Since then the patriots have been unrelentingly active from the Sinai peninsula to the Golan heights, from the Gaza area to the western side of the Jordan and deep inside Israel, even in Tel Aviv. They have achieved dramatic exploits like the one at Karamah, Elath, Lydda..., struck at the oil-pipeline in Haifa, stormed a series of Israeli positions 20 km along the Jordan valley for nine hours on end. Palestinian guerillas have become a redoubtable match for the enemy. The Israeli reactionary authorities have had to admit that the resistance has been growing in the occupied areas and expressed their fear about this "attrition war." The September 1970 event and the recent development in Jordan have been reactions of the US imperialists against the mounting Palestinian resistance movement. But how can they mitigate the explosive feeling of the Palestinian Arabs, let alone extinguish it once the revolutionary storm breaks loose?

The Palestinian movement has not only gained in military strength. Along with the armed fight, political actions have been on the upgrade over the past years in the occupied cities like Gaza, Nablus, Ram Allah... Thousands of Palestinian workers, students and people in Arab countries have staged violent demonstrations, market and school strikes against Israeli occupation and crimes against the Arab people.

As part and parcel of the Arab people's drive against the US imperialists and their agents in the Middle East and for independence, sovereignty and national integrity, the liberation struggle of the Palestinian Arabs has been enjoying the sympathy, support and assistance of other Arab peoples. For many years the latter have identified themselves with the Palestinian Arabs' cause. The Summit Conferences of Arab Countries have on many occasions declared their total support to it and reaffirmed their determination to liberate the Arab territories occupied by the Israeli aggressors. In late March and early April, in face of the US imperialists' plot to use the Jordani reactionary authorities to liquidate the Palestinian resistance, many ebullient demonstrations and meetings involving tens of thousands of Arabs in Palestine and other countries erupted in the UAR, Irak, Syria, Lebanon... against the US imperialists and Israel and Jordan hirelings. The Meeting of Representatives of the Heads of Nine Arab States in Cairo (April 10-15) also denounced the bloody crimes of the Jordani reactionaries and demanded that the Jordani authorities immediately stop all military operations against the Palestinian patriotic armed forces.

The liberation struggle of the Palestinian people has enlisted the sympathy and broad support of the world peoples, including progressive Jews. Nahum Gordmann, President of the World Congress of Jews (though not friendly to the Palestinian resistance) has acknowledged that "the Palestine liberation movement is gaining increased sympathy in world opinion... as a genuine national liberation movement." (4)

The factors of victory are already there: identity of mind, perseverance and determination to fight of the people and patriotic armed forces, sympathy and support of the Arab peoples and progressive mankind... The day is dawning on a liberated Palestine, a new one with a progressive, democratic, non-religious discrimination state in which Christians, Moslems and Jews will enjoy freedom of belief, work and live in peace and equality." (5)

The US imperialists and their Israeli agents must respect the fundamental national rights of the Palestinian Arabs, the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of other Arab countries; the Israeli aggressors must withdraw from the Arab territories they have illegally invaded. Such is a sound basis to the settlement of the present Middle-East situation. The South Vietnamese people now fighting against US imperialist aggression express full sympathy and thorough support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people with their all-out and successful offensives. They are resolute to stand side by side with the Palestinian Arabs in the fight for their fundamental national rights.

The just struggle of the Palestinian Arabs will certainly triumph.

DAI LIEN

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(3) UNRWA

(4) Survival review—August 1970.

(5) Statement of the El Fath Delegation at the Second International Conference in a support of Arab peoples—Cairo, January 28, 1969.

Palestinian woman-guerilla

APRIL 1971

NEW BIG GAINS IN CAMBODIA

FOLLOWING up the tremendous successes in the first 3 months of 1971, such as the devastating onsets on the Phnom Penh defence perimeter, foiling of the US - Saigon Operation "1-71 Total Victory" and of the dislodgement and encroachment attempts of the Lon Nol army, putting out of action of more than 25,000 enemy men (including 14,000 Saigon soldiers), destroying of 1,400 military vehicles and 120 cannons and sinking of 60 ships big and small, the Cambodian people and NLAF continued thrashing the adversary on all battlefields in April.

After being kicked out of Snoul late last March, the Saigon soldiers massed in Khnar and Ponnoreay areas tried to resist but were badly mauled by the NLAF.

The shelling of the CP of Army Column 8 south-west of Snoul on April 4 and 8, of the CPs of Armoured Brigade 3 and Army Column 5, of Army Column 43 in Ponnoreay and Kardol Chrum on April 9, of enemy positions in Bat Tonlea on April 15... were highly destructive materially and morally.

The enemy defensive rescuing raids such as the action by spy-Commando Battalion 33, Battalion 2 (Army Column 43) and Armoured Regiment 18 on April 10, those by Armoured Brigade 3 and a number of infantry units of Army Columns 43 and 333 on April 11 and 13, that of Armoured Regiment 10 and Army Column 49 on April 15 were also fought off with heavy casualties inflicted on Armoured Regiment 18, spy-Commando Battalions 3, 31 and 38, Battalion 2 (Army Column 43) and a number of companies belonging to Army Column 49, 77 military vehicles destroyed and 14 aircraft shot down. In addition, on April 18 the patriotic forces also assaulted the Saigon troops concentrated in Bat-Tonlea (on Highway 7), and aggravated the adverse defensive posture.

In April, at the Snoul plantation alone, 1,150 enemy troops were killed or wounded, over 30 others taken prisoner, 48 military vehicles and 14 heavy artillery pieces blasted out of commission, 15 helicopters brought down or wrecked.

As the traffic on strategic Highway 4 was cut off for the second time on March 26, thereby posing a serious threat to the Lon Nol regime, on April 5, the Phnom Penh 1st Heliborne Brigade (belonging to their strategic reserve forces) sent to replace reinforced Brigade 13 defeated in that area tried to open this most important communication line. But they were violently intercepted, and after two days' fighting, the dislodgement operation was completely beaten off with 500 Lon Nol troops and Battalion 2 and two companies wiped out, Battalions 3 and 5 heavily battered, and 32 military vehicles destroyed. Following this engagement, other ambushes and assaults on the enemy positions at Kilometers 66, 67, 76..., on Pich Nil Pass and on their convoys further sealed off the traffic on this strategic highway.

Pich Nil still remained under NLAF siege.

In co-ordinated actions with the NLAF, the regional forces and guerillas in Kompong Thom Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Kompong Chhnang Kandal, Oddâr Mean Chey... repeatedly assailed the Saigon and Phnom Penh troops in the surroundings of provincial capitals and main communication lines, causing to them thousands of casualties.

All told, in April 1971, the Cambodian people and NLAF not only held firm but even promoted their offensive posture on all battlefields and drove the enemy into utter confusion. As remarked by *AKI*, "a new vista has been opened up for the Cambodian people and NLAF."

END THE WAR NOW!

Mme **Nguyen Thi Dinh**, *Deputy-Commander of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces has received an open letter from a group of Americans who have served in the US army in South Viet Nam and are now living in Paris. The letter signed by E-5 Sgt.* **John Herndon** *RA. 13996407 reads as follows:*

"WE are a group of Americans who are on unauthorized leave here in the Paris area. I myself served in Viet Nam from 1966 to 1968. I thought we were there to keep the peace. When I was on R-R (rest and recreation) in Phuc Tan, I talked to a lot of Vietnamese. We always thought they were with the NFL. You really had to hand it to them. They explained that if all the foreign troops would leave Viet Nam, the Vietnamese people would make peace themselves and decide on the kind of government they wanted. This is the first time that the US army has had a revolutionary army in front of them and they don't know how to cope with them. A lot of the GIs think more of the NFL than they do of their own commanding officers. If I was asked to go to Viet Nam now, I would be glad to do so if there was some way it could help the Vietnamese people. I understand very well that there are GIs now fighting with the NLF.

While some of us resist inside the army, some of us have gone on prolonged leave until the Viet Nam war is over. We are in a weird new unit here in Paris. We rally appreciated Duong Dinh Thao's press conference. He picked up all the points we are now working on. We send out anti-war literature. We put out a newsletter *ACT** here in Paris and we like to think some GI's life may be saved because he is carrying some *ACT*s around with him. We also help soldiers who desert, whether for political reasons, or because of a lot of harassment in the army because of racism or some guy pulling rank on both. We think this open declaration of your support for our struggle, inside and outside the army, is great. We really feel we're fighting together with the Vietnamese people to end this war now.

We hope you won't mind that we are sending this as an open letter. We think a lot of GI's, in and out of the army, feel like we do and that we are talking for a lot of others beside ourvelves.

If there is any way in which our support here in Paris can be of help to you; please call on us."

(*From* Giai Phong Press Agency)

From *The Militant* April 30, 1971

* *War-resisting GIs' paper.*

anti-war action
the right path for GIs

THE US naval officers searched all home-coming GIs for heroin and other drugs (*Reuter*, May 6, 1971). "The infantry is the laughing stock of everyone," and the "Green Berets'" reputation is sullied (*BBC*, May 3, 1971) as an outcome of the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

That is not all. GIs have been exposed to the sun, hung under flying choppers, sent to the concentration camps of Long Binh and Da Nang, shot dead mercilessly by their COs, or visited by malaria. Many have written on their helmets the date of the end of their term in Viet Nam, sported "peace" badges, or held anti-war demonstrations or fired at the officers who forced them into action.

In a word, in the Viet Nam war, GIs have been turned into hideous slaughterers like Calley or drug-addicts (as is the case of 80% of GIs in Viet Nam) or patients afflicted by incurable tropical diseaes, but at the same time into stubborn anti-war fighters.

War protests have taken place not only in the "Tropical Lightning" Division (as on February 26, 1966) but also in all American divisions operating in South Viet Nam: air mobile, marine, infantry... The dissent which began on February 26, 1966 in the US 25th Infantry Division soon spread to the "Big Red One" and the 101st Airborne Division and to 3,000 American officers and men of the 25th Infantry Division at Dong Du, 20km northwest of Saigon, gaining momentum in the middle of 1968 and causing great concern to the American authorities.

The US psywar machine has resorted to many methods to bribe and intimidate the GIs: 20% wage-lift for draftees having seen up two years of service, higher allowances for Viet Nam volunteers, longer furloughs, rewards to those who denounce or catch deserters (20 dollars per head for the former and 25 dollars for the latter). Deserters and anti-war fighters have been brought to trial or subjected to tortures of medieval barbarity: stripped and sunned or hung for hours under flying helicopters. The attempt to court-martial US Marine John M. Sweeney is another typical case of the US military authorities' crack-down on US war-resister GIs in South Viet Nam.

However, these atrocities have only exasperated the GIs, stepped up the "war in the war," "fragging" as they call it and sent their morale down to a new ebb (*Newsweek*, May 11, 1971). After his hurried trip to South Viet Nam in the closing days of 1970, Defense Secretary M. Laird complained that the GI morale was a problem (*Newsweek*, Dec. 7, 1970). What problem if not that of the anti-war feeling running high in the US expeditionary forces in South Viet Nam, as accurately pictured by a captain of the Alpha Company, First Air Mobile Division, when he said that he was sure one hundred per cent of GIs had an anti-war spirit.

It is clear that more and more American officers and servicemen have realized that they have been dragged into an unjust and criminal war. This is the root cause of the war protest. These American GIs regard the Viet Nam conflict as "an illegal, immoral, unjust war." Its horrendous character has led them to the conclusion that: "We aren't fighting an army. We are fighting a people, a nation, which have united together to rid themselves and their country of a foreign invader which happened to be our own government." They are sorry and rueful at the thought that "they have come here as aggressors and are causing great sorrow and suffering to the Vietnamese people."

The GIs are more and more dejected and facing a "credibility gap."

They no longer believe in a military victory over a guerilla warfare developed to a degree unknown in history. Even high-ranking US officers admit that the war can be lost. With regard to the so-called happy issue of Vietnamization, they have seen better than any body else the jerry-built character of the Saigon regime and the impotence of army when they assessed that "the Saigon administration and the so-called ARVN's are nothing but an invention of our government used as a tool for their aggression" and are heading for their doom. They wonder why they have to shed blood in a war to defend nothing. This credibility gap makes them more cautious when they warn each other: "Don't be the last GIs killed in Viet Nam." They then refuse marching orders, remain inactive and fight for repatriation, etc. This is the logical outcome of the anti-war movement now plaguing the US army.

This unrest is causing a great demoralization among the most fanatic elements still active in the ranks of the US expeditionary forces and is beyond the control of the US government. To conjure away the spectre of death, 80 per cent of GIs have gone in for pot taking. This addiction has reached a high degree which, short of a troop pull-out, is past mending, as remarked the rear-admiral, heading an ad hoc fact-finding mission (*Reuter*, Nov. 15, 1970).

Whole battalions ignored the order to march into Cambodia; most typical were the refusal of an armoured company to go to the rescue of a Saigon unit invading Southern Laos and the anti-war actions and desertions in major American units. This situation has developed as the war drags on and expands to the whole of Indochina.

A de Segonsac, a French journalist, remarked that "indiscipline and disobedience are symptomatic of a disease now affecting the US expeditionary forces in South Viet Nam and the poison which runs in its veins is called Viet Nam."

HOWEVER the anti-war movement among the GIs in South Viet Nam has enlisted widespread and staunch support from the ebullient actions of the American people for an end to the war, repatriation of all GIs and from organizations set up in Sweden, Canada, Japan and other countries sponsoring GI war dissenters, deserters and draft-dodgers. It has earned the wholehearted sympathy and backing from the peoples of Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries and also from the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces Command who recently issued an injunction prohibiting attacks on all GI war protesters.

The anti-war movement is the right path for the American servicemen to save themselves and the honour of the American nation. It is the path to a genuine peace and prompt repatriation. That is why the GIs in South Viet Nam look forward to the actions of the American people for peace and promise them to "turn in their direction in co-ordination with their movement for the sake to bring this war to a speedy end." They demand "total withdrawal of all our fellow-American soldiers from Viet Nam now." "Not just combat troops, not just ground forces, but all troops," "immediate repatriation," "withdrawal without delay" of all US troops from Viet Nam.

THANH HONG

Anti-war demonstrators in Philadelphia urging immediate US troop withdrawal

Awakening of U.S. conscience

FOR nearly a month, the world peoples have been witnessing valiant actions of a V.N. war-dissenting United States.

On April 24, Washington was flooded with people and the scene in the early days of May made it look like a beleaguered city.

In San Francisco, over half a million people took part on April 24 in a 10km long march through the main thoroughfares. On May 5, tens of thousands of others also turned out in the streets for the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Indochina.

In Boston, a demonstration broke out on May 4 with more than 30,000 participants, and two days later, the marchers carried on anti-war activities in co-ordination with those in Washington.

Similar big parades were also staged in many other places such as New York, Kent, Rochester, Baltimore, New Heaven, Santo Monica, Seattle, Northridge, Saint Paul, Madison New Jersey, Denver, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Salt, Lake, Buffalo, Ithaca, etc.

The whole US has been in the throes of an offensive against Nixon and the aggressive ruling circles, the "1971 Spring Offensive."

THE VIGOROUSLY MOUNTING ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

It is not accidental that Western News Agencies have been using such big words as "unprecedented in US history," (*Reuter*) "highly impressive" (*AP*) to describe the present turmoil and its magnitude.

It is precisely a de-facto recognition of the tremendous growth of the war protest in the US. John Froines, one of the movement's leaders, on May 4 declared: "I think in the past month we've proved America is not cooled down, and American youth are not cooled down. I think that we have shown, not only the ability so survive under intolerable conditions, but we've taken the struggle to a new level."

Such a development was remarkably made clear by the April 24 parade in Washington whose original feature was the participation of the people of all walks of life, and combat objectives were reached. *Reuter* on April 24 stressed that this was an anti-war parade of largest ever scale. The *New York Times* also pointed out on April 26 that this demonstration has rallied the broadest sections of the people in the US society.

The parading force included not only students and youths known as the anti-war nucleus, but also "a large crowd of young workers" (*AFP*), "black trade-union leaders, traders, mothers pushing perambulators or holding babies in their arms..., white-haired people" (*Reuter*), a big number of old-agers, plantation-owners, Catholics, scientists, social activists, Viet Nam veterans, a number of US Congressmen and even active-duty GIs...

Now, if thousands of Viet Nam veterans threw away their medals in front of the Capitol, American lawyers, old-agers, Congressmen from both Democratic and Republican Parties and those usually branded by Nixon as the "silent majority" raised their voices and demonstrated for the termination of the war, now if leaders of US religious communities called on their believers to fast and all churches in the USA to toll bells for an hour on May 1st to "repent" over the US war crimes in Viet Nam, US Congressmen decided to stage a "trip" throughout the US for peace in Viet Nam..., the anti-war movement can be proud of "having awakened US conscience" as the demonstration leaders declared on May 3 (*AFP*, May 4).

Such slogans as "Peace now", "Immediately end the US aggressive war in Viet Nam", "Withdraw all American troops from South Viet Nam", "Nixon must fix at once a deadline for troop pull-out," "Immediate cancellation of the compulsory military service", "Jobs for us", etc. forcefully reflected the American people's present most cherished aspirations.

Through nearly a month of militancy, the anti-war movement leaders have shown their wonderful capability in mass mobilization, co-ordinated actions and skillful use of tactical methods. The war dissent has generated throughout the US an interrelated combat position, driving warlike Nixon further into a tight corner where he received blows from every part, at every moment and of great impact.

The marchers, when showing their strength were quite "cool-headed, and orderly" (*Le Figaro*, April 25), but when taking "direct actions," they quickly switched over to an extremely valiant and resourceful fighting posture.

To hinder the aggressive war organs' activities in Washington, the marchers lay on the roads to seal off the traffic, block the entrances to the White House, Justice Department, the Pentagon..., pretending that they were corpses of those killed in the US war in Indochina. They surrounded the White House, hoisted flags of the Republic of South Viet Nam right in front of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird's residence. The anti-war leaders also had the initiative to collect signatures for a "People's Peace Treaty," affirming that the peoples of the USA and Viet Nam felt no enmity for one another, and insisting that the aggressive war waged by the US Government was inconsistent with the American people's will. The treaty bearing 100,000 signatures was sent to the State legislatures and administrations, urging their Congressmen to sign it and put it on the agenda of Congress.

Students of US universities held a requiem for their mates shot dead at Kent and Jackson in May last year to remind the American people of the blood debt owed by the reactionary authorities. American women have set on foot a drive for signatures from millions of "silent mothers" to be sent to Nixon. They warned him that if he does not undertake to withdraw all American troops and personnel from Indochina on July 4 to come, they will take steps in 1972 to defeat him and anyone like him... Workers and white and coloured Americans have combined their actions against the Indochina war with demands for democratic rights and welfare.

Thousands of people in Los Angeles held a service for the victims of the Indochina war. Viet Nam veterans successively set up tribunals to denounce GIs' crimes in Indochina and went to report their findings to a Congress Committee in charge of investigation of US atrocities in Viet Nam.

NIXON POURS MORE OIL ON THE WAR FLAME

In dealing with the American people's ever increasingly impetuous drive, Nixon has proved to be a fascist ruler with his ruthless crack-down on the dissenters. On Nixon's orders, more than 20,000 regular troops, civil guards and policemen were hurled against them. They were allowed to use tear gas at discretion and even chemicals and brutalities. Up to now, according to estimates by US press, some 20,000 people, including anti-war movement leaders, have been arrested. As prisons in Washington were packed with apprehended people, they had to impound others in a stadium.

But Nixon and his followers only exasperated popular opposition. Millions of people continued to march forward, militated more vigorously for their objective. Several main communication lines were jammed. Young Americans confined in a stadium calmly turned it into a place for anti-war actions, broke through police cordons, besieged a number of main public organs in Washington, and slogans against war and for the repatriation of American troops were resounding everywhere.

The anti-war movement was also on the upsurge in many other places of the US.

In Maryland, traffic on Massachusetts Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares to Washington, was interdicted on May 5 by the marchers. On the same day, students in Madison rose up, and the agitation was so fierce that the local authorities had to order the state of emergency.

In New York, Boston, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Detroit... big demonstrations continued to erupt between May 3 and 5 under such watchwords as "Immediately stop the Indochina war", "In memory of 6 murdered students" (at Kent and Jackson)...

All these have proved that Nixon's repressive measures not only failed to stamp out the anti-war movement but instead has further fanned up the American people's indignation. Nixon has met not only with the US peace forces' opposition, but also with that of many from the ranks of his supporters.

Workers and office employees in his repressive machine also joined on May 3 in the dissent. Many lawyers urged immediate trials of the arrested and repeatedly refuted the court charges.

Several US Congressmen harshly took Nixon to task. Representative R. Dellums said that police and army acts of violence were really disgusting. Senator Metkalf commented that Nixon's deeds reminded the people of Hitler's horrible death camps. Representative Bella Abzug pointed out that Nixon had turned Washington into a free-arrest zone like the US free-killing zones in South Viet Nam.

Recently, 4 Congresswomen on behalf of American mothers, have sent a letter to Nixon, presing for the termination of the Indochina war and the repatriation of American boys. On May 7, 17 Senators headed by W. Fulbright, meeting at the US Senate Foreign Relations' Commission, decided to quickly put to vote a bill forcing Nixon to pull out all American troops before December 31 this year.

It is clear that conscience is prevailing over violence.

At a press conference in Washington on May 6, Rennie Davis, one of the anti-war leaders recently set free by the US authorities, said that if Nixon thought that the week was already hot, let him wait for the coming period. This was but the initial step (*UPI*).

Those are the voices of American war resisters, the determined demands for an end to the war, repatriation of their sons and brothers and defence of US image.

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